



MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1954.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year, 1954.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you
my report for the year 1954.

A report from the Sanitary Inspector
is also included.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S. GOVERNOR.

Medical Officer of Health.

(i) Public Health Committee. - Councillor A. E. Morton - Chairman
Councillors Harry Burn, J. S.
Collingwood, T. H. Ellingham,
H. W. Papworth, E. H. Robshaw
and G. Brewin.

(ii) Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health - S. Governor, M.B., B.Ch.

Sanitary Inspector - H. Burton, M.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.

(iii) General Statistics.

| | |
|--|------------|
| Area in acres. | 19,777 |
| Population (Registrar-General's estimate for 1954) | 13,170 |
| Number of inhabited houses | 4,313 |
| Rateable Value | £53,505 |
| Amount represented by ld. rate | £201 5s 0d |

The estimated population shows an
increase of 90 on the 1953 figure.

(iv) Vital Statistics.

Table I - Live Births

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 85 | 74 | 159 |
| Illegitimate | 5 | 8 | 13 |
| | 90 | 82 | 173 |

The birth rate is 13.06 per 1,000 population and is
slightly below the birth rate for England and Wales
which is 15.2. In 1953 the birth rate in the district
was 15.21, compared with 15.5 for England and Wales.

Table II - Still Births.

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Illegitimate | - | 1 | 1 |
| | 2 | 5 | 7 |

The rate for still births is 40.69 per 1,000 births compared with 23.4 for England and Wales.

Table III - Infantile Mortality.

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| | 2 | 2 | 4 |

The infantile mortality rate is 23.26 per 1,000 live births compared with 25.5 for England and Wales. In 1953 the local figure was 35.17 per 1,000 compared with 26.8 for England and Wales.

No deaths were notified from Infantile Diarrhoea during 1954.

Table IV - Deaths in the Area and Causes.

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach . . . | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus . . | 1 | - | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast . . . | - | 4 | 4 |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus . . . | - | 1 | 1 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| Diabetes. | 2 | - | 2 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system . . | 8 | 7 | 15 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 6 | 9 | 15 |
| Hypertension with heart disease . . . | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Other heart diseases | 6 | 11 | 17 |
| Other circulatory diseases | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Bronchitis | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | 1 | - | 1 |
| Nephritis and nephrosis. | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases. | 6 | 12 | 18 |
| All other accidents | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Suicide | - | 2 | 2 |
| Congenital malformations | - | 1 | 1 |
| | 60 | 71 | 131 |

The death rate in March this year is 9.95 per 1,000 population compared with 11.3 for England and Wales.

The following table gives the percentage of deaths in the principal age groups.

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Under 1 year | 3.8 |
| 1 - 5 years | - |
| 6 - 15 years | - |
| 16 - 65 years | 21.4 |
| 66 and over | 74.8 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 100.0% |
| | <hr/> |

(v) Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

Infectious Diseases Notified

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Whooping Cough | 17 |
| Measles | 154 |
| Scarlet Fever | 3 |
| Tuberculosis - Pulmonary | 3 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 177 |
| | <hr/> |

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

During 1954, no action was taken under the above Act. One female person aged 83 years, who was removed during 1950, volunteered to remain in hospital at the termination of the court order, and was still in hospital until her death during 1954.

Typhoid "Carrier".

Since the outbreak of Typhoid Fever in 1948, there is still one "carrier" living in an isolated part of the district. Samples of Faeces are taken regularly and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. The sanitation at the cottage is subject to strict supervision.



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SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1954.

The following are details of visits and inspections carried out in 1954.

The following tables show defects found and remedied during the year by action under the Public Health and Housing Acts:—

| | Defects <u>Found</u> | Defects <u>Remedied</u> | Outstanding at the end of 1954. |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <u>Drains</u> | | | |
| Chocked drains. | 15 | 15 | - |
| Cesspools Defective construction | 10 | 10 | - |
| Drains, Defective construction | 3 | 3 | - |
| Drains, Insufficient | 1 | 1 | - |
| <u>Sanitary Accommodation</u> | | | |
| Defective closets, structure | 2 | 2 | - |
| Defective sanitary accommodation | 1 | 1 | - |
| <u>Verminous Infestation</u> | | | |
| Rats and Mice | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| Vermin and Filthy Premises | 8 | 8 | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| C/fd. | 48 | 44 | 4 |

| | Defects Found | Defects Remedied | Outstanding at the end of 1954. |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| B/fd. | 48 | 44 | 4 |
| <u>Housing Defects</u> | | | |
| Defective Ceilings | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Roofs | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| Eavesgutters | 3 | 3 | - |
| Washing Accommodation | 2 | 2 | - |
| Windows and Woodwork | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Stoves and Fireplaces | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Floors | 3 | 3 | - |
| Walls | 1 | 1 | - |
| Chimneys | 3 | 3 | - |
| Sinks and Waste Pipes | 3 | 3 | - |
| Dampness | 2 | 2 | - |
| Accumulations | 11 | 11 | - |
| Dustbins | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| | 95 | 82 | 13 |

TABLES OF NOTICES SERVED DURING 1954.

| | Served during 1954. | Complied with by 31.12.54. |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Public Health and Housing Acts. | | |
| Verbal | 50 | 47 |
| Letter | 26 | 22 |
| Food and Drugs Act, 1938. | | |
| Verbal | 2 | 2 |
| Factories Act, 1937. | | |
| Letter | 4 | 4 |
| Shops Act, 1950. | | |
| Verbal | 2 | 2 |
| Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. | | |
| Verbal | 7 | 7 |
| Letter | 4 | - |
| | 95 | 84 |

HOUSING

During the year fifty three houses were completed by the Council, ten by the County Council, and thirty four private houses under licences granted by the Council. Building licences were issued for the erection of thirteen dwellings up to November, 1954, and it was during this month that the restriction on private buildings was completely removed.

During the year no houses were dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, but following the passing of the "Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954" a survey has to be completed in all districts by August this year, and although my survey is not yet complete, quite obviously, certain properties will require to be dealt with. I hope that more can be said about this in the next annual report.

Paragraph 4 of Circular 23/54 states that Article 31 of the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, which, owing to wartime conditions was curtailed, should now be reintroduced into the reports in its original unabridged form, which is as follows:-

HOUSING (Contd.)

- 1) The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation:

This matter is still under consideration - see paragraph 2 above relating to the housing survey.

- 2) The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers:

The number of defects and notices served are to be found on pages 4 and 5.

- 3) The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or the making of demolition or closing orders:

See also answer to 1 above.

- 4) The number of notices served requiring the execution of works:

The number of notices served are to be found on page 5.

- 5) The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

See page 5 for details.

- 6) The number of demolition or closing orders made:

Nil.

- 7) The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (2) of Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1920, as amended:

Nil.

- 8) The number of houses demolished:

3 houses were demolished by June, 1954, which had been reported during 1953.

DRAINAGE

Once again I must refer to the new sewerage scheme which is now nearing completion, and hope that in the immediate future we shall see the abolition of insanitary vaults and pail closets in areas which are served by the new sewers.

WATER SUPPLY

There has been no change in the circumstances of the district during the year. The following is the information requested by the Ministry.

- 1) Whether the water supply of the area and of its parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. - Yes..
- 2) Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations have been made of the raw water, and the results of any analysis. - No samples were taken during the year, but the water is known to be examined at regular intervals by the Water Board.
- 3) The position as to the contamination by lead. - The water is hard and has no plumbo solvent action.

WATER SUPPLY (Contd.)

- 4) Action as to contamination. - There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.
- 5) Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of population supplied from the public water mains. - (a) direct to house - 87%. (b) by means of stand pipes - 10%.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The decontrol of meat and ~~large~~^{LIVE} stock took effect at the end of June, 1954, and in order that there should be no disruption of supplies, four local slaughterhouses were licensed for a period of three years. A proportion of the animals slaughtered in this district are for consumption in two other districts and in addition a number of pigs have been slaughtered for sale in London. This of course adds to the work carried out, and in this respect some 775 visits, including 130 evening visits, were made last year, which together with 16 Sunday visits totalled over 200 hours extra work. In addition all four slaughterhouses have been licensed by the Ministry for the certification of pigs on a deadweight basis, and in this respect some 302 pigs were weighed and certified during the last 6 months of the year. The report of the Interdepartmental Committee regarding the siting of slaughterhouses is due anytime, and its recommendations affecting this area are eagerly awaited.

Accordingly, the figures given below will relate to the period under control and to the period under private enterprise. I would at this stage express my thanks to the Slaughterhouse Manager and Staff for the assistance I received whilst meat was under control. Similarly, I would add that the local butchers have been most co-operative in enabling me to carry out a proper system of meat inspection.

I would at this stage draw special attention to the amount of time I spend on meat inspection to the exclusion of work in food preparing premises, factories, etc. This is evidenced by the increased number of animals slaughtered, (particularly at the four newly licensed slaughter~~ed~~^{ies}) during the past year, which has necessitated an increased number of visits for the purpose of meat inspection.

One case of *Cysticercus Bovis* was discovered during the first half year, and two cases in the second half year. In all cases the cysts were located in the external masseter muscles. The carcasses and organs were then dealt with in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Food.

The number of animals killed to 30th June, 1954, at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses in the town was as follows: 43 Cows; 389 Other Bovines; 25 Calves; 1,069 Sheep; 2,114 Pigs and 99 Goats; Total 3,739.

The number of animals killed from the 1st July to 31st December, 1954, was as follows: 28 Cows; 502 Other Bovines; 3 Calves; 942 Sheep; 2,899 Pigs and 31 Goats; Total 4,405. This gives a Grand Total of 8,144 over the whole of the year and the following figures show how this total has kept increasing over the last five years. 1949: - 2,783. 1950: - 3,368. 1951: - 4,236. 1952: - 4,902. 1953: - 5,855.

Condemnations from 1st January to 30th June, 1954, included the following whole carcasses: 2 Cows; 8 Other Bovines; 7 Calves; 3 Sheep; 20 Pigs; Total 40 which, together with a quantity of offal and parts of carcasses brings the total weight of meat and offal condemned up to 5 tons 16 cwt. 21½ lbs. during this period.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION (Contd.)

Condemnations from the 1st July to 31st December, 1954, included the following whole carcasses: 1 Cow; 7 Pigs; Total 8 which, together with a quantity of offal and parts of carcasses brings the total weight of meat and offal condemned up to 1 ton 18 cwt. 17 lbs. during this period.

The total weight of meat condemned during the year amounted to 7 tons 14 cwt. 1 quarter 10½ lbs. and this shows an appreciable decrease from 1953 when the total was 11 tons 18 cwt. 1 quarter 18 lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned from January 1st, 1954 to June 30th, 1954.

| | Cattle Excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|--|-----------------------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|-------|
| Number Killed | 389 | 43 | 25 | 1,069 | 2,114 |
| Number Inspected | 389 | 43 | 25 | 1,069 | 2,114 |
| <u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u> Whole Carcasses Condemned. | 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 20 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned. | 77 | 5 | - | 2 | 60 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis. | 21.33 | 13.95 | 28.00 | 0.46 | 3.78 |
| <u>Tuberculosis Only</u> Whole Carcasses Condemned. | 2 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned. | 47 | 5 | - | - | 33 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis. | 12.59 | 13.95 | - | - | 1.56 |

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION (Contd.)

Carcases Inspected and Condemned
From July 1st, 1954 to December 31st, 1954.

| | Cattle Excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|--|-----------------------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|-------|
| Number Killed | 502 | 28 | 3 | 942 | 2,899 |
| Number Inspected | 502 | 28 | 3 | 942 | 2,899 |
| <u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u> Whole Carcases Condemned. | - | - | - | - | 6 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned. | 46 | 3 | - | 3 | 43 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis, | 9.16 | 10.71 | - | 0.31 | 1.69 |
| <u>Tuberculosis Only</u> Whole Carcases Condemned. | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned. | 29 | 5 | - | - | 60 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis. | 5.77 | 21.42 | - | - | 2.10 |

The Ministry requests information regarding the number of cases of Food Poisoning during the year. - No cases were notified in this area during 1954.

OTHER FOODS

Many inspections were made during the year of stocks of other food stuffs and the following were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

| (1) <u>Miscellaneous</u> | <u>Weight</u> | <u>lbs.</u> | <u>ozs.</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Cheese | | 17 | 4 |

OTHER FOODS (Contd.)

| (2) Tinned Goods | No. of Tins | Weight | lbs. | ozs. |
|------------------|-------------|--------|------------------|------|
| Ox Tongue | 1 | 6 | 0 | |
| Jellied Veal | 3 | 18 | 0 | |
| Fruit | 72 | 347 | 2 | |
| Tomatoes | 2 | 1 | 13 | |
| Irish Stew | 2 | 2 | 0 | |
| Stewed Steak | 1 | | 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| Ham | 1 | 10 | 3 | |
| Peas | 5 | 4 | 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| Crab Meat | 1 | | 7 | |
| Sauce | 2 | | 9 | |
| Minced Beef Loaf | 1 | | 12 | |
| Luncheon Meat | 6 | 13 | 15 | |
| Milk | 12 | 19 | 9 | |
| Corned Beef | 7 | 21 | 0 | |
| | 116 | | 447 | 5 |

All the unsound food was voluntarily surrendered and in no case was seizure under the Food and Drugs Act, required.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949, the Council issued seven Dealer's Licenses for Tuberculin Tested Milk, seven Dealer's licenses for Pasteurised Milk, five Dealer's licenses for Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk, and one Supplementary licence for Sterilised Milk.

The following samples were taken giving the results shown:-

Pasteurised Milk

| No. of Samples Taken | Satisfied Methylene Blue Test | Satisfied Phosphatase Test | Failed both Tests |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 16 | 16 | 16 | 0 |

Tuberculin Tested Milk

| No. of Samples taken | Satisfied Methylene Blue Test | Failed Test |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 11 | 10 | 1 |

Three samples of Sterilised Milk were taken and these satisfied the Turbidity Test.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the County Council are also known to take samples.

ICE CREAM - BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Twenty eight samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge. The provisional grading of samples was as follows:-

ICE CREAM - BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION (Contd.)

| Grade 1. | Grade 2. | Grade 3. | Grade 4. | Total |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| 26 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 28 |

It will be observed that 92.86% of these samples were classified Grade 1 and no samples were found to fall into Grades 3 or 4. At the end of the year 39 shops were registered for the sale of ice cream. There is one manufacturer in the area.

No samples of Iced Lollies were taken during 1954.

In Circular 1/54 the Minister requests that reports of previous years should be amplified to include the following information.

- 1) the number, if available of food premises in the area by type of business:

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Green Grocery | 8 |
| Grocery | 35 |
| Butchers | 18 |
| Fish Shops | 11 |
| Bakehouses | 7 |
| Confectionery | 11 |
| Cafes | 4 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 94 |
| | <hr/> |

In addition there are some 58 licensed premises including clubs.

- 2) the number of food premises, by type registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, or under local Acts, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

| | |
|--|----|
| Premises Registered for Sale of Ice Cream. | 39 |
| " " " Preparation of Meat, | |
| " " " Pies and Sausages. | 17 |
| " " " Sale of Fish and Chips. | 11 |

See page 10 for Milk Licences issued.

- 3) the number of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary:

Inspections of registered Food Premises and Other Food Shops Generally (including Slaughterhouses) are shown on Page 4.

- 4) any new educational activity (e.g. inauguration of clean food guilds or lectures on food hygiene) and the progress of established educational activity:

No clean food guilds have been established.

- 5) the method of disposal of condemned food:

Where condemnation certificates are issued for tinned food etc., the food is collected and disposed of by the Council. Condemned meat at the Slaughterhouses is collected by contractors for processing.

- 6) where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity as well as the quantity condemned.

No large batches of Food were examined, but the lists on pages 9 and 10 show the total weight of food condemned.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

At the end of the year 26 licences had been issued for moveable dwellings compared with 27 for the previous year. Each site is visited prior to a licence being issued and advice given where difficulties arise, particularly in relation to drainage arrangements.

R.G FLOCK, 1951

Under the above Act, which is enforced by the Council, one registration has been approved, but so far no samples have been taken.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

At present two premises are registered under the above Act, and these are subject to inspection by myself and Inspector Sherwood of the N.S.P.C.A. who has been appointed as Honorary Inspector.

RATS AND MICE

Complaints of infestation are dealt with by the Council's Rodent Operator who also looks after infestation on the refuse tips. The sewers are treated twice a year in accordance with the Ministry's instructions and visits are paid to farms not under contract to the Agricultural Executive Committee.

F.ACTORIES ACT.

There are 52 factories on the Councils register, and 8 visits were paid resulting in 5 nuisances being found.

Form 572 has been completed and forwarded as requested, in advance of this report.

In conclusion, I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the members of the Council and my colleagues on the staff for their helpful co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. BURTON.

Sanitary Inspector.

13th July, 1955.

